Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 DODE-00 DOE-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OES-02 OMB-01 PM-03 SOE-02 SP-02 TRSE-00 EUR-08 CIAE-00 /056 W
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R 171145Z AUG 78 FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9900 INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA AMEMBASSY PARIS

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 TAGS: ENRG, EAID, IR

SUBJ: ALLEGED PROPOSAL BY SHAH ON NEW OIL FINANCED AID FUND

REF: PARIS 24167

WE CANNOT REPEAT CANNOT, CONFIRM THE REPORT IN REFTEL, I.E. THAT THE SHAH PROPOSED OR HAS EVEN SPOKEN OF A PROPOSED NEW OPEC FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FUND WHICH WOULD BE FINANCED FROM INCREMENTAL INCOME RESULTING FROM AN OIL PRICE INCREASE. DISCREET SOUNDINGS BY EMBOFF INCLUDED POLICY LEVEL OFFICALS OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FIN (OFFICAL IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE), CENTRAL BANK AND A MEMBER OF IRAN'S OPEC DELEGATION WHO IS ALSO AN ENERGY CONSULTANT

WITH EXCELLENT ACCESS IN THIS AREA. ALL CONTACTS WOULD AGREE WITH OUR VIEW THAT IRAN'S FINANCIAL NEEDS ARE SO GREAT AS TO PRECLUDE ITS PARTICIPATION, THOUGH PERHAPS NOT THAT OF ALL OPEC MEMBERS, FROM SUCH A SCHEME. EVEN THE SHAH'S THOUGHTS, EXPRESSED TO PRESIDENT CARTER IN NOVEMBER, CONCERNING AN INTERNATIONAL ENERGY BANK AND ENERGY BONDS CLEARLY EXCLUDED IRAN AS A CONTRIBUTOR. SURPLUS OPEC COUNTRIES WERE THE INTENDED BENEFACTORS. LASTLY, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE CREATION OF A NEW AID FUND HARLY SEEMS PRACTICAL GIVEN THE EXISTENCE OF THE OPEC FUND FOR PRECISELY THE OBJECTIVE OF CHANNELING OPEC'S LARGESS.

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